

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**  
**BY THE**  
**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
**Department of Finance and Administration**

**RFI Number: 317.03-135**

**A. STATEMENT OF INTENT:**

The State of Tennessee (State), Department of Finance and Administration, Office for Information Resources (OIR), issues this Request for Information (RFI) for the purpose of obtaining information to help State leadership determine what the Industry and Fiber Companies see for the future of Wide Area Network (WAN) Technology, WAN Services, and WAN Architecture over the next 10 years. Prospective vendors are strongly encouraged to respond to this RFI. The information received in response to this RFI will help determine the direction of any future Request for Proposal (RFP) for Tennessee Information Infrastructure 2 (TNII-2) hardware and implementation services, although there is no guarantee an RFP will ever be developed as a result of this RFI. Respondent information will also be used to document the business case and funding requirements for TNII-2. Your input is greatly appreciated.

**B. BACKGROUND:**

The existing TNII contract expires in April 2007. The present K-12 contract with ENA to provide service to Tennessee's schools is extended on a yearly basis. Higher Education's recent Cyberinfrastructure Commission report finds a need for an innovative state-of-the-art infrastructure on which to build research and collaboration between institutions. Vehicles on which to build economic development through the extension of modern network and data services need improvement statewide. Government and education require a reliable, secure, backbone network to function and provide service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee. The Tennessee Information Infrastructure 2 (TNII-2) project has been initiated to meet these needs in the future.

The exact form of service to meet Tennessee's needs in the future has not been determined. Our requirements analysis and interface with industry will help shape the approach to continued and improved service.

**C. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

**C.1. The State is requesting the following information from all interested parties:**

The purpose of this Request for Information is to request white papers from Industry and Fiber vendors on the current and future (next 5 to 10 years) technology for networking and fiber.

- What does the Industry see for the future of Wide Area Network (WAN) over the next 5 to 10 years?

- Technology – new technologies and their impact on network performance and reliability
- WAN Services
- WAN Architecture
- Service levels for private networks and for public networks.
- In an outsourced WAN, what is the security responsibility of the vendor?
- Managed networks verses unmanaged service - We need an analysis of pros, cons and the cost differences/comparisons.
- Combination of Outsourced network & State/Education owned network
- What do fiber vendors see for:
  - Fiber optical networks
  - Dark fiber availability
  - Rural and urban fiber availability
- What do the Industry vendors see for:
  - Content delivery, hosting, and web switching
  - LAN, WAN and VPN
  - Multimedia communications
  - Optical networks
  - Video
  - Voice over IP (VoIP) and circuit switching
  - Wireless

C.2. Please feel free to contact the Department of Finance and Administration with any questions regarding this RFI. The main point of contact will be:

Karen L. Taylor, TNII-2 Project Manager  
 Department of Finance and Administration  
 15th Floor Tennessee Tower  
 312 8th Avenue, North  
 Nashville, TN 37243-0288  
 Phone 615-741-4425  
 Fax 615-253-1433  
 Internet [karen.taylor@state.tn.us](mailto:karen.taylor@state.tn.us)

#### D. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING

D.1. Submit your response to this Request for Information to:

Karen L. Taylor, TNII-2 Project Manager  
 Department of Finance and Administration  
 15th Floor Tennessee Tower

312 8th Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37243-0288  
Phone 615-741-4425  
Fax 615-253-1433  
Internet [karen.taylor@state.tn.us](mailto:karen.taylor@state.tn.us)

- D.2. Please reference Request for Information # 317.03-135 with your response to this request.
- D.3. Please respond via email by end of day October 7, 2005.